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**For Trade Certifications Numbered 70,000**

**Has your job been adversely affected by foreign competition?**

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program includes among eligible workers those directly affected by increased imports or certain shifts of production to other countries. Eligible workers also include secondarily affected workers of an upstream supplier or downstream producer to a certified primary firm. When a layoff or work reduction is threatened to occur, a petition for TAA must be filed with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and the TAA Coordinator by:

- A group of 3 of more workers
- A certified union official or representative
- Official of the employer/firm
- One Stop operators or partner
- State dislocated worker unit staff

The petition and help completing the petition is available from Maine CareerCenters or through the trade coordinator, judith.a.pelletier@maine.gov. Filing a petition will trigger immediate rapid response and basic adjustment services to workers. Rapid reemployment is the goal. The USDOL has forty calendar days to complete its investigation and certify eligibility.

**Benefits Available through the Trade Act**

- Re-employment Services
- Training and Related Expense Reimbursement
- Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA)
- Health Coverage Tax Credit
- Job Search Allowance
- Relocation Allowance
- Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)

**How can you qualify for these benefits?**

- You must complete a TRA-26, "Request for Determination of Initial Entitlement to TAA/TRA"
- You must be pre-approved for all TAA/TRA services and benefits by a CareerCenter consultant
- You must be enrolled in training or have a waiver of training 26 weeks after the petition certification date or your date of separation

**Re-employment Services**

- Job search strategies
- Resume, cover letters, applications
- Referrals to jobs
- Labor Market Information
- Interview preparation

**Training – up to 130 weeks**

- On-the-Job Training
- Occupational Training
- Customized Training
- Remedial Training
- Other training related expenses
  - Tuition, books, fees, tools, and uniforms
  - Travel expenses (if beyond normal commute)
  - Subsistence allowance (if training is not available within your commuting area.)
- Remedial education is available for up to 26 *additional weeks* for a maximum total of 156 weeks.

**Six criteria applied to program before training can be approved**

1. Suitable employment is not available for you (Your CareerCenter consultant will match your skill level, salary, and commuting area to jobs listed)
2. You will benefit from training
3. You meet entry level education/training program requirements and have the financial resources to carry you through
4. Training is reasonably available to you (travel/subsistence)
5. Training is suitable for you and available at a reasonable cost
6. You can reasonably expect to find employment following completion of your training program

**Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) – Weekly Benefits**

(You must file a weekly claim and meet eligibility requirements to be paid.)

- Up to 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits
- Up to 26 weeks of basic TRA
- Up to 78 weeks of additional TRA
- Up to 26 weeks of TRA benefits if in remedial training

**Additional TRA Allowances** – You may be able to collect up to 78 weeks of additional TRA if you use up your unemployment insurance and Basic TRA benefits. If you need more time and financial help to complete your training, you can apply for the additional TRA benefits. The additional benefits can only be paid if you are enrolled in training.

**Break in Training** – If you have more than a 30-day break in your TAA training (not counting National and State holidays and weekends), TRA benefits are not payable. TRA payments will resume when your approved TAA training starts again.

**Six specific situations when training can be waived**

1. You have a written note that you will be recalled within 6 months (specific recall date is required)
2. You have marketable skills (determined by assessment)
3. You are within 2 years of qualifying for Social Security or a privately sponsored pension
4. You are in poor health but can actively seek and accept full time work
5. You are determined eligible for training but the first available enrollment date is delayed (training must begin within 60 days)
6. Training is not available at a reasonable cost or funds are not available under TAA or other Federal laws

**Job Search Requirements** – If you complete training or receive a waiver from training, you must actively seek full time employment to receive Basic TRA benefits. CareerCenter staff will help you through your work search. Re-employment is the goal!

**Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)**

- You must be covered under a TAA certification of eligibility for TAA benefits.
- Your HCTC eligibility may begin on the 61<sup>st</sup> day after the date the petition was filed.
- You must be entitled to TRA benefits.
- You must have received TRA or UI benefits on any day of the month to qualify for HCTC that month.

- You are eligible for an additional month after ceasing to be an eligible TAA recipient and as such remain eligible for the advanced tax credit for one more month.
- You must call toll free **1-888-457-8883** to apply for an advance tax credit – if eligible, the HCTC office will pay 65% of your health insurance premium – you pay 35%.

#### **Job Search Allowance**

- You must be pre-approved by your CareerCenter Consultant to seek work beyond your normal commuting area
- 100% of the cost of expenses for meals, lodging, and mileage may be refunded to you to the nearest suitable employment opportunity with a maximum amount of \$1,500

#### **Relocation Allowance**

- You must be pre-approved by your CareerCenter Consultant to seek suitable work beyond your normal commuting area (Certain deadlines apply – see your Consultant)
- You must live 50 miles or more from your new place of work
- You must have a written offer of employment
- Your new job must be within the continental United States
- 100% of the total cost of the following to the nearest suitable employment opportunity
  - Cost of meals, lodging, and mileage

- Cost of moving your household goods and personal and family effects (lesser of 2 estimates)
- Up to 2 months storage
- A lump sum payment equal to 3 times your average weekly wage (maximum \$1,500)

#### **Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)**

- You must be at least 50 years old by the time you gain new employment or start self employment.
- You may receive 50% of difference between reemployment wages and wages earned at separation
  - Payments may not last more than 2 years
  - Total payments may not exceed \$12,000 over 2 year period (whichever of these runs out first)
  - Employment must be 35 hours or more per week or if in part time training 20 hours or more per week.
  - RTAA recipients can receive HCTC assistance.
  - Receiving RTAA does not void your rights to TAA Training, Job Search and possibly relocation assistance.

**REMINDER:** CareerCenter staff must approve training programs, job search allowances and relocation allowances in advance. The HCTC toll free number is 1-866-628-4282.

**For more information and help with the TAA Program, contact one of our staff at your local CareerCenter.**

#### **AUGUSTA**

21 Enterprise Drive, Suite 2  
109 SHS  
Augusta, ME 04333-0109  
**624-5120 or 1-800-760-1573**  
TTY: (207) 624-5134 or  
1-800-633-0770  
Fax: (207) 287-6236

#### **BANGOR**

45 Oak Street, Suite #3  
Bangor, ME 04401-6667  
**561-4050 or 1-888-828-0568**  
TTY: 1-800-498-6711  
Fax: 561-4066

#### **BRUNSWICK**

275 Bath Road, Suite #3  
Brunswick, ME 04011  
**373-4000 or 1-888-836-3355**  
TTY: 1-888-697-2871  
Fax: 373-4004

#### **CALAIS**

One College Dr., PO Box 415  
Calais, ME 04619-0415  
**454-7551 or 1-800-543-0303**  
TTY: 1-888-697-2883  
Fax: 454-0349

#### **LEWISTON**

5 Mollison Way  
Lewiston, ME 04240-5805  
**753-9000 or 1-800-741-2991**  
TTY: 1-877-796-9833  
Fax: 783-5301

#### **MACHIAS**

15 Prescott Drive, Suite 1  
Machias, ME 04654-9752  
**255-1900 or 1-800-292-8929**  
TTY: 1-800-381-9932  
Fax: 255-4778

#### **PORTLAND**

185 Lancaster Street  
Portland, ME 04101-2453  
**771-5627 or 1-877-594-5627**  
TTY: 1-888-817-7113  
Fax: 822-0221

#### **PRESQUE ISLE**

66 Spruce Street, Suite #1  
Presque Isle, ME 04769-3222  
**760-6300 or 1-800-635-0357**  
TTY: 1-888-697-2877  
Fax: 760-6350

#### **ROCKLAND**

91 Camden Street, Suite 201  
Rockland, ME 04841-2421  
**596-2600 or 1-877-421-7916**  
TTY: 1-888-212-6229  
Fax: 594-1428

#### **SKOWHEGAN**

98 North Avenue  
Skowhegan, ME 04976-1923  
**474-4950 or 1-800-760-1572**  
TTY: 1-888-697-2912  
Fax: 474-4914

#### **SPRINGVALE**

9 Bodwell Court  
Springvale, ME 04083-1801  
**324-5460 or 1-800-343-0151**  
TTY: 1-888-697-2913  
Fax: 324-7069

#### **WILTON**

865 US Route 2E  
Wilton, ME 04294-6649  
**645-5800 or 1-800-982-4311**  
TTY: 1-888-697-2895  
Fax: 645-2093